

What is claimed is:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a polymeric component, comprising:
 - providing a primary extrusion in a solid state;
 - zone heating at least one portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone within the at least one portion, leaving surrounding portions of the primary extrusion in a solid state; and
 - compressing the at least one portion between a pressing unit and a die cavity until the at least one portion takes the shape of the pressing unit and die cavity and forms a solid state section molded feature integral with the primary extrusion.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 the step of providing a primary extrusion, further comprising:
 - heating a polymeric compound and forcing the heated compound through an orifice to form a heated extrusion; and
 - cooling the heated extrusion to form a primary extrusion in a solid state.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - aligning the zone heating and compression steps in an off-line operation; and
 - forming the section molded portion in the off-line operation.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - aligning the heating, cooling, zone heating and compressing steps in an in-line operation; and
 - forming the polymeric component in the in-line operation.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion, further comprising:
 - applying zone heating of the type selected from the group consisting of:
 - convection heating, radiant heating, conduction heating, infrared heating, and
 - induction heating.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

B₁

providing a section mold unit having at least one pressing unit and at least one die cavity for forming a section molded feature integral to the primary extrusion;
and
aligning the at least one molten zone with a corresponding die cavity of the section mold in preparation of compressing the molten zone.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing the die cavity to be comprised of a split die having a combined shape corresponding to the outer shape of a barbed projection to be section molded from the primary extrusion, and
providing the pressing unit to be comprised of an upper mandrel having a shape corresponding to the inner shape of the barbed projection; and
raising the mandrel and separating the split die to release the polymeric component.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

clamping the solid state portion of the primary extrusion to stabilize the primary extrusion prior to compressing the molten zone.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion, including:

simultaneously zone heating a plurality of portions along the length of the primary extrusion to simultaneously create a plurality of molten zones, leaving the surrounding portions of the primary extrusion in a solid state;
providing a section mold having a plurality of die cavities and pressing units; and
aligning each portion having a molten zone with a corresponding die cavity of the section mold.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing a section mold unit having a plurality of identical die cavities and pressing units.

B,
cont.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

providing a section mold unit having a plurality of dies cavities and pressing units
and wherein at least one die cavity and pressing unit define a section mold
feature shape different from at least one other die cavity and pressing unit.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 the step of zone heating at least one portion,
including:

zone heating a first portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone
within the first portion, while leaving the remaining portion of the primary
extrusion in a solid state;

providing a section mold having a die cavity and pressing unit, the die cavity and
pressing unit;

aligning the molten zone of the first portion with the die cavity;

compressing the first portion between the pressing unit and die cavity until the
first portion takes the shape defined by the die cavity and pressing unit and
forms a solid state integral with the primary extrusion;

advancing the primary extrusion;

zone heating a second portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone
within the second portion, leaving the surrounding portion of the primary
extrusion in a solid state;

aligning the molten zone of the second portion with the die cavity; and

compressing the second portion between the pressing unit and the die cavity until
the second portion takes the shape defined by the die cavity and pressing unit
and forms a solid state integral with the primary extrusion.

B,
cont.

13. (Currently Amended) A polymeric component, comprising:

a primary extrusion; [[and]]

a section molded portion integral with the primary extrusion, the section molded portion formed after the primary extrusion by zone heating a portion of the primary extrusion to create a molten zone and compressing the portion having the molten zone in a die cavity until the section molded portion takes the shape of the die cavity and forms a solid state; and

product by process

wherein the section molded portion is formed as a projection having a cross section with variable dimensions, including a first portion extending from the primary extrusion and having a first outer dimension, and a second portion extending from the first portion and having a second outer dimension that is greater than the first outer dimension of the projection.

14. (Original) The polymeric component of claim 13 further comprising:

the primary extrusion formed by heating a polymeric compound and forcing the heated compound through an orifice to form a heated extrusion; and cooling the heated extrusion to form the primary extrusion in a solid state.

product by process

15. (Currently Amended) The polymeric component of claim 13 further comprising:

the section molded portion being compressed into the die cavity by a pressing unit having a corrugated shape and the die cavity having a shape corresponding to a corrugated shape; and

p b i p

wherein the resulting section molded portion has a corrugated inner shape and a corrugated outer shape.

16. (Previously Presented) The polymeric component of claim 13 further comprising:

the primary extrusion being formed at least in part by thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of: polypropylene, talc-filled polypropylene, polyethylene, soft TPE, rigid TPE, nylon, and ABS/PVC.

17. (Original) A polymeric component, comprising:

a primary extrusion of co-extruded material, wherein the primary extrusion includes at least one thermoplastic material; and

at least one section molded portion formed in the portion of the primary extrusion formed from thermoplastic material and extending from the primary extrusion and integral with the primary extrusion, the section molded portion capable of interconnection with an aperture in a portion of a mating structure and having suitable rigidity to retain the primary extrusion relative to the structure.

18. (Original) The polymeric component of claim 17 further comprising:

the section molded portion being in the shape of a barbed projection having a thin walled portion having a first outer diameter and extending from the primary extrusion and a thick walled portion having a second outer diameter greater than the first outer diameter.

B₁
cont.

19. (Original) The polymeric component of claim 17 further comprising:

the primary extrusion being formed from a layered co-extrusion, each layer formed of thermoplastic material.

20. (Original) The polymeric component of claim 17 further comprising:

the primary extrusion being formed from a C-shaped cross section in which a portion of the cross-section is formed from thermoplastic material.